

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-13 are all the claims pending in the application. New claim 13 has been added based on, for example, the Examples of the present specification.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

In the Advisory Action dated August 6, 2008, the Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Yuji et al. (JP 2002-110245; JP '245) in view of Nakagawa et al. (WO 01/75991). Specifically, the Examiner asserts that:

At paragraph 0024, Nakagawa discloses "The aforementioned crosslinked material layer has a **polymer skeleton** crosslinked by the polymerization of the aforementioned crosslinkable monomer and thus exhibits an excellent durability against high temperature and repetition of temperature change and can maintain its structure over an extended period of time.". Therefore, to the Examiner Nakagawa discloses a formation of a **polymer** layer on the porous substrate.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

JP '245 discloses that a molecular weight of (the oxetane ring) polymer is set to 10,000 or more. *See* [0011]. Additionally, JP '245 discloses that when the molecular weight of the polymer is less than 10,000, there is a trend that the necessary amount of the polymer that is required for forming the gel is larger. As is clear from this disclosure of JP '245, the crosslinking polymer of JP '245 has a molecular weight of more than 10,000 in a state that the polymer has not yet been crosslinked.

In contrast, although Nakagawa discloses the final formation of a "polymer skeleton," it is formed by crosslinking the "monomer" solution. Therefore, it is clear that in Nakagawa, the crosslinking **monomer**, has a preferable molecular weight of 2000 or less in a state that the monomer has not yet been crosslinked.

Although there is a difference of expression between "polymer" (JP '245) and "monomer (Nakagawa), both references disclose the molecular weight of polymer/monomer which is not crosslinked, respectively.

Thus, based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that it would be difficult to combine a porous substrate disclosed in Nakagawa with the polymer disclosed in JP '245.

Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be led to arrive at the claimed invention based on the disclosure of JP '245 and Nakagawa.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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